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Portland Urban District Council

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

Y E A R 1 9 5 0

Dr. E. J. Gordon Wallace M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

PORTLAND URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

R E P O R T

on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the

PORTLAND URBAN DISTRICT

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1950

Council Offices,
PORTLAND.

October, 1951.

To The Chairman and Members of the
Portland Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your information and consideration my Report for the year 1950 on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Urban District.

Although an unexpectedly large number of cases of measles (235) was notified (there having been 236 in the previous year), the outstanding epidemiological event of the year was the occurrence of 14 cases (9 paralytic and 5 non-paralytic) of poliomyelitis (infantile paralysis). This is equivalent to an annual case rate of just over 98 per 100,000 living, the annual case rates for paralytic cases and non-paralytic cases being respectively 63 and 35 per 100,000 living.

In the present state of our knowledge, it is not possible to explain this high attack rate, nor indeed can one explain how this disease is spread, although the causal organism, - a very small filterable virus - is known.

It is a pleasure to record my appreciation of the courtesy and consideration which has been extended to me by members of the Council since I took up my duties in Portland. I am also most grateful to my fellow officials and to the Council staff generally for their most helpful co-operation. In particular I would like to pay special tribute to Mr. H.R.A. Bolt, your Sanitary Inspector, for his ever ready assistance in the work of the Public Health Department.

I have the honour to be
Your obedient Servant,

E J Gordon Wallace

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department Staff

1. Medical Officer of Health:

Dr. I. B. Lawrence (to September, 1950).
Dr. E.J.Gordon Wallace (from September, 1950).

2. Sanitary Inspector:

Mr. H.R.A. Bolt, Cert. R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,

3. Sanitary Labourer:

C. Otter.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (land and internal water) 2,905 acres.

Population (mid 1950)
Estimated by Registrar General 14,202

No. of houses inhabited at 1st April, 1951
(exclusive of Government properties) 2,359

Rateable Value at 1st April, 1951. £59,823.

Sum represented by Penny Rate at 1st April, 1951. £239.

VITAL STATISTICS

Total Births:- 130
Birth Rate per 1,000 population:- 9.15
* Comparability factor (births):- 1.66
Standardised Birth Rate:- 15.19 per 1,000 population.

Live Births:- 127

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	65	58	123
Illegitimate	2	2	4
TOTAL	67	60	127

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population:- 8.95.

Still Births:- 3

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	3	-	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-
TOTAL	3	-	3

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population:- 0.21.
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 (Live and still) births:- 23.07

Deaths: 106

Males	Females	Total
70	36	106

Death Rate per 1,000 population:- 7.56
* Comparability Factor (Deaths). 1.36
Standardised Death Rate:- 10.28

Deaths of Infants under 1 year

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	5	1	6
Illegitimate	-	-	-
TOTAL	5	1	6

Infant Mortality Rates

All infants per 1,000 live births:- 47.24
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births: 48.78
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births: -

Infant Mortality Rates (contd.)

Neo-Natal Mortality Rate:- 31.49
Deaths from Puerperal Causes: Nil.

x Comparability Factor. This is worked out for each district by the Registrar General. Its object is to level out differences in the age and sex constitution of the populations of the various districts and its use enables us to obtain standardised birth and death rates which are more fairly comparable and more accurate than the crude rates.

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case-rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the Year 1950.
Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns.

	England and Wales	126 C,Boro's and Gt.Towns including London	148 Smaller towns (resident pop. 25-50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Admin. County.
	Rates per 1,000 Home Population			
Births				
Live Births	15.8	17.6	16.7	17.8
Still Births	0.37	0.45	0.38	0.36
Deaths				
All causes	11.6	12.3	11.6	11.8
Typhoid and Para.T	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.36	0.42	0.33	0.39
Influenza	0.10	0.09	0.10	0.07
Smallpox	-	-	-	-
Ac.Poliomyelitis (incl. polioencephalitis)	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01
Pneumonia	0.46	0.49	0.45	0.48
Notifications (corrected)				
Typhoid Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Paratyphoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Meningococcal Infect.	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03
Scarlet Fever	1.50	1.56	1.61	1.23
Whooping Cough	3.60	3.97	3.15	3.21
Diphtheria	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.03
Erysipelas	0.17	0.19	0.16	0.17
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	-	-
Measles	8.39	8.76	8.36	6.57
Pneumonia	0.70	0.77	0.61	0.50
Ac.Poliomyelitis (incl. polioencephalitis)				
Paralytic	0.13	0.12	0.11	0.08
Non-paralytic	0.05	0.05	0.06	0.05
Food Poisoning	0.17	0.16	0.14	0.25
	Rates per 1,000 Live Births			
Deaths				
All cases under 1 year of age	29.8	(x)33.8	29.4	26.3
Enteritis and diarrhoea under 2 years of age	1.9	2.2	1.6	1.0
Notifications (corrected)	Rates per 1,000 total (live and still) births.			
Puerperal fever and pyrexia	5.81	7.43	4.33	6.03

(x) per 1,000 related live births.

Maternal Mortality in England and Wales

International List No. and cause	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births	Rates per million women aged 15-44
651. Abortion with sepsis	0.09	7
650,652 Other abortion	0.05	4
640,-649, 670-678. Complication of pregnancy and delivery	0.54	-
681 Sepsis of childbirth and the puerperium	0.03	
680, 682-689. Other complications of the puerperium	0.15	

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES

	Males	Females	Total
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	3	-	3
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	-	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis	1	-	1
8. Measles	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4	1	5
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	1	-	1
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	1	1
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	-	-
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	7	1	8
15. Leukaemis, aleukaemia	1	-	1
16. Diabetes	-	1	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	9	5	14
18. Coronary disease, angina	4	6	10
19. Hypertension with heart disease	1	1	2
20. Other heart disease	14	10	24
21. Other circulatory disease	4	1	5
22. Influenza	1	1	2
23. Pneumonia	1	2	3
24. Bronchitis	2	-	2
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	-	-	-
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-	-
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1	2
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	2	-	2
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	7	5	12
33. Motor vehicle accidents	1	-	1
34. All other accidents	4	-	4
35. Suicide	1	-	1
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-
TOTAL	70	36	106

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Infectious Disease notified during the year, shown as quarterly totals:-

	March	June	September	December	Total for 1950.
Scarlet Fever	7	-	1	-	8
Whooping Cough	-	1	-	1	2
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	8	1	9
Non-Paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	5	-	5
Measles	-	166	69	-	235
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Pneumonia	11	2	-	2	15
Dysentry	-	-	-	-	-
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-
Acute encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-
Typhoid	-	-	-	-	-
Para-typhoid	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	1	1	2
Meningococcal Infections	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	9	4	4	17

FOOD POISONING

Towards the end of June, 1950, there was a limited outbreak of food poisoning at a canteen for the workers on a new construction project.

The total number of persons at risk was 53 of whom six were notified to be suffering from food poisoning.

As a result of laboratory investigation the causative organism was considered to be Cl. Welchii - one of the food handlers was a carrier - while the vehicle of infection was probably roast beef cooked the previous day, left overnight (not in a refrigerator), and served cold the next day.

WATER SUPPLY

Water is piped from a borehole at Friar Waddon. It is chlorinated at the pumping station there.

Twenty five samples were submitted for bacteriological examination. All were satisfactory with the exception of one reported to be 'suspicious'. A repeat sample taken immediately on receipt of this adverse result, was reported to be highly satisfactory.

All houses in the district have a main water supply.

HOUSING

Council Dwellings	In process of erection.	Completed	Completed since end of war
Temporary	-	-	40
Permanent			
Traditional type	-	30	100
Non-Traditional type	-	8	35
TOTAL	-	38	175

During the year a contract was entered into for the erection of 96 dwellings of the non-traditional type on the Verne Common Site (Stage 1). These will comprise 20 two-bedroom flats, 66 three-bedroomed houses and 10 four-bedroomed houses. Work on this site was begun in December, 1950.

No official representations under the Housing Act, 1936 regarding houses considered to be unfit for human habitation were made during the year.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

These are provided at the County Laboratory, Glyde Park Road, Dorchester.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

No action was taken by the Council under Section 47 of this Act - to secure the removal of persons in need of care and attention.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

Part I of the Act

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Secs. 1,2, 3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	30	54	2	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	32	119	6	Nil
(iii) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	3	4	Nil	Nil
TOTAL	65	177	8	Nil

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. Of cases in which prosecutions were Instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	10	10	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	1	1	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-	-
Total carried forward	11	11	-	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found (Contd)

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were Instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Brought forward	11	11	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) insufficient	3	2	-	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	7	7	-	-	-
(c) not separate for sexes	2	1	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (Not including offences relating to Out-workers).	4	4	-	-	-
TOTAL	27	25	-	-	-

BURIAL GROUND - ST. GEORGE'S CEMETERY EXTENSION.

During the year the Council gave considerable thought to the necessity of utilising further land for burial purposes as there was little further space available in the present St. George's Cemetery.

The proposed extension was southwards along Weston Road and after inspecting the land I submitted a report that, provided adequate surface water drainage could be established, there should be no nuisance arising from the use of this extension for burial purposes.

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

With few exceptions the water carriage system is of general use in the district. The closet accommodation is satisfactory. The disposal is by means of three outfalls to the sea.

There are twelve buildings drained into cesspools
Three have pail closets.
Three buildings have septic and filter tanks.
In two instances premises are drained into natural fissures.

SHOPS ACTS

Number of inspections made under the Shops Acts:- 46

No exemption certificates were granted during the year, and except where the few exemptions have been granted, the premises are all satisfactory with regard to sanitary and washing accommodation.

FACTORIES ACTS

Number on Register	65
Number of inspections made	177
Number of notices	8
Number of Defects found	27
Number of Defects remedied	25

SANITARY INSPECTIONS MADE

Total number of complaints received	96
Number and nature of inspections made during year	1,631

Nature of Inspection

Visits to houses and inspections of nuisances etc. in course of abatement	687
Visits in connection with Infectious Disease	36
Visits in connection with Infestation	24
Visits to Slaughterhouse	53
Visits to Cowsheds and Dairies	16
Visits to Meat and Food Shops	138
Visits to Fish Frying Shops	42
Visits to Bakehouses	53
Visits to Meat Shops	61
Visits to Factories	177
Visits in connection with Rats Destruction	101
Miscellaneous visits, interviews with property owners, etc.	380
Visits under Shops Acts	46
Drain tests carried out - Water	45
Smoke	42
Drains unstopped	150
Premises cleansed	1
Accumulations removed	12

CAMPING SITES

There are no official camping sites in the area.

REGULATED BUILDINGS

Common Lodging Houses	-
Canal Boats	-
Offensive Trades	2
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	175

Huts are used for seasonal occupation; they have a water supply, but no sewerage disposal system. Public conveniences are provided near the sites by the Local Authority.

MILK SUPPLY

Dairymen, or Purveyors of Milk (other than Cowkeepers)

No. on Register	Inspections made	Number of Contraventions	
		Found during year	Remedied during year
4	12	-	-

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) REGULATIONS, 1936/46

Number of Licences issued in respect of -

Tuberculin tested	- Bottling	-
	Dealers	-
	Supplementary	-
Accredited	- Bottling	-
	Dealers	1
	Supplementary	-
Pasteurised	- Pasteuring Plants	-
	Dealers (Retail)	-
	Supplementary (Retail)	2

MEAT AND OTHER FOOD INSPECTIONS

Under Ministry of Food arrangements, all slaughtering is carried out at Dorchester, and meat inspection there is carried out in conjunction with other Inspectors in the area.

Number of animals killed for human consumption under licence from the Ministry of Food and examined by me.

Pigs	23
Sheep	77
Calves	2
Beasts	608

Amount of meat condemned at Slaughterhouse - 5,585 lbs.

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
No. Killed	-	608	2	77	23
No. Inspected	-	608	2	77	23
All Diseases except T.B.					
Whole carcases condemned	-	1	-	1	1
Some part or organ	-	163	-	8	1
Percentage	-	26.97	-	11.7	8.7
T.B. Only					
Whole carcases	-	6	-	1	-
Some part or organ	-	125	-	2	2
Percentage	-	20.5	-	3.9	8.7

FOOD CONDEMNED

Frozen Rabbit	480 lbs.
Shell Eggs	1,322
Meat tinned	58 lbs.
Meat carcase	378 lbs.
Biscuits	539 lbs.
Cooked Ham	49½ lbs.
Cheese	59 packets
Sausages	59 lbs.
Cereals	368 lbs.

FOOD CONDEMNED (Contd.)

Mincemeat	112 lbs.
Bacon	64 lbs.
Milk, tins	89
Vegetables, tins or jars	132
Fish, tins	83
Soups, tins or packets	16
Tea, Coffee, Cocoa	1
Jam, tins or jars	8
Fruit, tins or jars	34
Confectionery, packets	39
Fruit, raw	24 lbs
Fish	434 lbs.
Pickles, jars, etc.	3
Preserved fruit	86 boxes.

HOUSING

Inspection of Dwelling Houses	
Total No. of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	111
No. of inspections made for the purpose	278
Remedy of Defects - Informal Action	
No. of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action	94
Remedy of Defects - Statutory Action	
Proceedings under Secs. 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
No. of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.	2
No. of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:	
(a) by owners	2
(b) by local authority in default of owners	0
Proceedings under Public Health Acts	
No. of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	5
No. of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice:	
(a) by owners	4
(b) by local authority in default of owners	0
Proceedings under Secs. 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936	
No. of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	0
No. of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Order.	0
Proceedings under Sec. 12 of the Housing Act, 1936	
No. of separate tenements in which respect Closing Orders were made	0

OVERCROWDING

Overcrowding exists but to what extent is not known.

ICE CREAM

There are 32 vendors of ice cream in the district; in addition small quantities are sold from vehicles operating from outside the area. The majority of ice cream sold is already pre-packed, the remainder being brought in containers for sale as loose ice cream.

The premises vary, but generally speaking are satisfactory.

RODENT CONTROL

Sewer baiting was carried out on those sections of the sewer considered likely to be affected, the other sections become surcharged with storm water and have such steep gradients that they cannot remain infested. Control baiting is regularly carried out at the refuse tip, situated at the Council Depot. Minor infestations only have been met with during the year and all complaints are attended to as well as possible by the limited staff available.